

### REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

### CLAIMS STATUS

Applicants have amended claims 13-19. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the application as filed and, in particular, on page 7, lines 10-14; page 13, lines 6-10; page 18, Table 1; pages 19-20, Table 2; pages 22-24, Tables 3-6; and page 25, Table 7. No new matter has been added.

After the amendment, pending claims 11-19 and 21-22 include rejected claims 13-19 and withdrawn claims 11-12 and 21-22.

### REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 13-19 stand rejected as obvious over Nishino et. al. (US patent 4,256,728) in view of Oikawa et. al. (US patent 4,831,011).

Applicants note that neither Nishino, nor Oikawa, taken alone or in combination, teach the heat-treated active carbon with an atomic surface oxygen/surface carbon ratio of 0.05 or less recited in the amended claims. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

### CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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